Sample theme statement/paragraph on “Civilization”

* So many of the “Big Life Decisions” that our society and public figures make are far less significant to us as individuals, or at least largely out of our individual control: a politician trying to advance himself at the expense of his country, a dictator with a selfish, childish vendetta, or even just chance and chance alone. As individuals, our happiness is best found not by worrying about these overwhelming societal trends and shifts, but by focusing on what matters to *us* as individuals-- our life and our loved ones—because “Despite the destruction” that Civilization might cause, “a baby is born”; the life cycle continues.

*Text evidence for this theme statement:*

* Consider the fact that no matter what choices you make in this “Choose your own Adventure” story, your story ends the same (this emphasizes that so much of civilization is out of our individual control that all choices will eventually lead to the same path. We might have freedom of choice, but it’s a bit of an illusion because it all leads to the same ending that is larger than us.)
* “Do you feel that you’re at the beginning, again? You are. It’s a circle. But there’s always hope for change—hope that the circle becomes a spiral staircase.” 🡨Even with this cycle that’s seemingly dictated by fate and chance, it’s our individual hope as human beings that causes us to keep fighting and trying regardless of this cyclical outcome, and this is a necessary, wonderful thing about human beings (even if it’s not entirely rational).
* The ending paragraph: “They vote like responsible citizens, but they’re more excited by the child learning to walk.” (we vote because that’s what we’re supposed to do and what we have to do to keep this artificial society functioning, but really, it’s new life and love and experiences that keep us going and make our lives worth living—not a voting booth.)
* “The child grows up in revolution, or not, and marries a man, or a woman, or no one at all. S/he raises a family in Utopia/Dystopia or a world that is neither. When the apocalypse comes…Despite the destruction, a baby is born.” 🡨 The choices don’t matter. They could be anything. The end result is the same. The world will take us places we have little control over, but we will continue to hope, love, and reproduce, so that our children have the opportunity to make the same mistakes (despite our attempts to prevent them) and learn the same lessons, so that their children can make the same mistakes and learn the same lessons, so that…You get the idea.